MENTAL ATTITUDE.

It Has Much to Do With Winning Success In Life.

The mental attitude which we always hold toward our work or our aim has everything to do with what we may accomplish. If you go to your work with the attitude of a slave who goes lashed to his task and see in it only drudgery; if you work without hope, seeing no future in what you are doing beyond getting a bare living; if you see no light ahead, nothing but poverty, deprivation and hard work all your life; if you think that you were destined to such a hard life, you cannot expect anything else than that which you look for.

If, on the other hand, no matter how poor you may be today, you can see a better future, if you believe that some day you are going to rise out of humdrum work, that you are going to get up out of the basement of life into the drawing room, where beauty, comfort and joy await you; if your ambition is clean cut and you keep your eye steadily upon the goal which you hope to reach and feel confident that you have the ability to attain it, you will accomplish something worth while. The direction of your effort will follow your eye. If that looks up as well as on, you will climb.

That one quality of holding persistently the faith in themselves and never allowing anything to weaken the belief that somehow they would accomplish what they undertook has been the underlying principle of all great achievers. The great majority of men and women who have given civilization a great uplift started poor and for many dark years saw no hope of accomplishing their ambition, but they kept on working and believing that somehow a way would be opened. Think of what this attitude of hopefulness and faith has done for the world's great inventors—how most of them plodded on through many years of dry, dreary drudgery before the light came, and the light would never have come but for their faith, hope and persistent endeavor.

What if they had listened to their advisers! Even those who loved them tried to beg them to give up the foolishness of coining their lives into that which would never be practical or useful. We are enjoying today thousands of blessings, comforts and conveniences which have been bequeathed us by those resolute souls who were obliged often to turn a deaf ear to the pleadings of those they loved best as they struggled on amid want and woe for many years.—Success.

CHRISTMAS.

Negroes consider Christmas day the best in the year for a wedding.

Christmas was first celebrated as a feast of the Christian church about the year 190 A. D.

At Culdaff, in Ireland, the game of kamman, a sort of hockey, is played on Christmas day.

A leaf from Christmas decorations is preserved in Yorkshire as a remedy against toothache.

Scottish servants each endeavor to be the first to draw water from the well on Christmas morning.

It is an old Irish superstition that gold should not be paid away on Christmas day nor silver lent.

Christmas day at Cape Town is usually celebrated with picnics. The temperature averages 82 degrees.

On Christmas morning in Norway every gateway, gable or barn door is decorated with a sheaf of corn fixed on a tall pole in order that the birds may eat from it their Christmas dinner.

To Make a Canary Sing.

Generally any kind of soft, sibilant noise will tempt a bird to sing. A canary hung in a kitchen will usually start his song if he hears, say, the frizzling of a frying pan. We utilize special devices to tempt the shy singer, who is perhaps rendered the more bashful by finding himself in novel surroundings. For this purpose we employ whistles and song organs, which artificially reproduce the "tours" of the roller. This latter method is found to be irresistible when all other plans have failed. The bird feels apparently that he is being challenged and forthwith responds to the challenge by pouring forth the best of his song.—London Post.

Vulcan.

Vulcan, the god of ancient blacksmiths and metal workers, was lame in consequence of a pretty hard fall he had in his early days. Jupiter and Juno had a row, and Vulcan sided with his mother against the old gentleman, who promptly kicked him out of heaven. He fell for a whole day and lighted on the island of Lemnos, broke his leg and received as severe a shaking up as though he had tumbled down an elevator shaft. Æsculapius set his leg, but having only just received a diploma did a poor job, and for a long time Vulcan went on a crutch.

All at the Head.

Glass stands first of elastic substances, pearl is the heaviest of animal substances, mercury is the heaviest liquid, the heaviest woods are pomegranate and lignum vitæ, cork is the lightest wood, and platinum is the most ductile metal, capable of being drawn so fine as to be invisible.

He Will See Them.

"A prominent oculist says he never saw a pair of perfect eyes," said the woman who reads the newspapers.

"That," replied Miss Cayenne, "merely proves that the prominent oculist was never in love."—Washington Star.

The way to fame is like the way to heaven, through much tribulation.—Sterne.

Creeks' Medicine Man.

The medicine man of the Creeks will not eat anything scorched in cooking. In treating a gun or arrow shot wound he as well as the patient will fast four days, only drinking a little gruel.

He will not allow a woman to look at his patient until he is well or dead. If his patient dies, the medicine man takes a lot of medicine himself in order to cleanse himself from the fumes or odor of the dead. The pallbearers, as we might call those assisting in the burial, also take the same cleansing process.

And, again, when an Indian committed murder, even in self defense, he went to the medicine man and took the cleansing remedy, claiming the remedy appeased the crime and the trouble to his mind.

At the full of each moon it was the custom of the bucks to drink medicine made by the medicine man to cleanse their systems. In camp the Indian killed nothing which was not eatable.—Indian Journal.

Reconciled Science and Religion.

A clergyman is quoted in Everybody's Magazine as confounding an advanced young woman who was demonstrating to him that science had disproved religion with this little parable. "Madam," he said, "I once knew a member of your sex who perfectly reconciled science and religion. She is a prominent member of the Young Women's Christian association, and she was making an address to a large gathering of women, which was interrupted by a terrific thunder shower. She shared with many the awful fear of thunder and lightning, and, with the others, she trembled in silence for a few moments. When a blinding flash was swiftly followed by a frightful clap of thunder she struggled to her feet and began to pray, 'O Lord, take us under thy protecting wings, for thou knowest that feathers are nonconductors.'"

The Men of Turkey.

With the exception of the Mussulmans the men of Turkey are laborers, one and all. Usually in the villages (for there are no farms as we understand the term and every one lives in a hamlet or a city) the men own the property in common with the rest of the family. When a girl marries she goes to her husband's home to live, and when her children become old enough they take their turn in tilling the fields and marketing the produce. Agriculture is the main occupation everywhere, and it is of the simplest form. The farmer rises with the dawn and in company with his wife, sons and daughters repairs to the fields. One woman only remains at home to prepare the meals and set the house in order.—Southern Workman.

December.

"Nobody is worried nowadays by the fact that the twelfth month of the year is called the tenth, December," says a writer, "and no doubt even the ancient Romans soon got used to the anomaly when the new year was shifted back from March to January, though the old names of the months were retained. But there was one of them who made ingenious use of it—Licinius, a rascally procurator at Lyons under Augustus. He insisted on having certain monthly payments made fourteen times a year, arguing, when December came round, that as it was the tenth month of the year and there ought to be twelve there must be two more to be accounted for."

Fed Them on Stale News.

In the British arctic expedition of 1875 one of the chaplains had a file of the London Times twenty years old, containing the Crimean war reports. One copy was given out to each ship daily. The officers had it first, then it went to the forecastle, and soon every one was as keen about the news as if the war had been proceeding. The clergyman in control of the press was besought to issue an evening edition, and when Sevastopol was about to be taken excitement ran so high that the newspaper office—a locker—was almost stormed. The editor, however, was firm and continued with his daily issue, the interest being kept up to the end of the expedition.

"In God We Trust."

The word "God" never appeared in any government act until the year 1864, when, at the suggestion of the director of the mint, former Governor Pollock of Pennsylvania, "In God We Trust" was stamped on the copper two cent piece. Before that time "E Pluribus Unum" had been the motto. Strange to relate, "E Pluribus Unum" on coins never was authorized by law.

An Inference.

Mrs. Jackson—Did you see Mrs. Briggs' collection of rare old china? Jackson—Yes. Her family must have been quite poor. Mrs. Jackson—No. Why do you think so? Jackson—Well, if they had been able to keep servants she never would have had that collection of rare old china.

Explained.

"Pop!"

"What is it, Willie?"

"Why is they a 'w' in 'sword?'"

"Ahem! For the same reason that there is a 'k' in 'knock,' Willie."

"Thank you, pop!"—Kansas City Independent.

Showed Her Age.

Grace—They say that Miss Fortyolde was named after her Aunt Georgiana. Gwendolyn—She looks as if she was named before her Aunt Georgiana.—Judge.

If men would consider not so much wherein they differ as wherein they agree there would be far less uncharitableness.—Addison.